E/2009/26
E/CN.5/2009/9

United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-seventh session (22 February 2008 and 4-13 February 2009)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2009
Supplement No. 6

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2009
Supplement No. 6

Commission for Social Development

Report on the forty-seventh session
(22 February 2008 and 4-13 February 2009)

United Nations • New York, 2009

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0251-964X

Summary

At its forty-seventh session, held on 22 February 2008 and from 4 to 13 February 2009, the Commission for Social Development considered "Social integration", the priority theme for the 2009-2010 review cycle, and the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

On the priority theme, the Commission held a panel discussion elaborating on social integration, taking into account the relationship with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all, and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme.

The Commission adopted a resolution entitled "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" and decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development".

During the panel discussion, under the agenda item entitled "Emerging issues", the Commission discussed the current global crises and their impact on social development.

The Chairperson's summary of the discussions on the priority theme and on the emerging issues is contained in annex I to the present report. In connection with its review of United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Commission adopted resolutions entitled "First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002", and "Policies and programmes involving youth".

The Commission also addressed the subject of programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007 and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011 and heard statements by the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the Commission's Special Rapporteur on disability.

Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council	1
	B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	5
	C. Decision calling for action by the Council	6
	D. Resolutions and decision brought to the attention of the Council	7
II.	Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly	14
	A. Priority theme: Social integration	15
	B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups	17
	C. Emerging issues: "The global crises and their impact on social development"	19
III.	Programme questions and other matters	20
	A. Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007	20
	B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011	20
	C. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	20
IV.	Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission	21
V.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session	22
VI.	Organization of the session	23
	A. Opening and duration of the session	23
	B. Attendance	23
	C. Election of officers	23
	D. Agenda and organization of work	23
	E. Documentation	24
Annexes		
I.	Chairperson's summary of the discussions on the priority theme and on the emerging issues: "The current global crises and their impact on social development and social integration"	25
II.	List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session	32

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[3] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[4] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[5]

Noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Recognizing the commitments made in meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[6] and contained in the political declaration adopted on 22 September 2008 at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters to address Africa's development needs,[7]

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 4-7.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[5] A/57/304, annex.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 63/1.

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the financial crisis, as well as challenges brought about by the ongoing food and energy crisis,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development[8] to the New Partnership,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[5] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in some countries and the completion of the self-assessment process, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so, to join the peer review, as a matter of priority, and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Welcomes in particular* the organization of the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, and recalls in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, which has been endorsed by Africa's Heads of State;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New

[8] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] E/CN.5/2009/3.

Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa;

7. *Also emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

8. *Further emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

9. *Emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptably high poverty levels and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education and health, and to enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, so as to ensure the achievement of Africa's social and economic objectives;

10. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

11. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

12. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard, emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring effective implementation of existing commitments in the context of such initiatives;

13. *Urges* continuous support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with a special emphasis on health-, education-, poverty- and hunger-related Millennium Development Goals, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, enhanced economic empowerment of women, and the promotion of social protection systems, and the conclusion of the Round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

14. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty has fallen short of expectations and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

15. *Encourages* all development partners to implement the principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,[10] adopted by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on 2 December 2008;

16. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

17. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies or in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

18. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

19. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach regarding successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

21. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union and the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect, acknowledges recent commitments by some donor countries;

[10] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

24. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work, those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard, work programmes of the Commission should include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

25. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership during its forty-eighth session;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to be tabled during the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, while also taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 62/179 of 19 December 2007, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-seventh session;[11]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 6* (E/2009/26).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all: linkages between full employment and decent work for all and social integration

(a) Priority theme: Social integration;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes:

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

(c) Emerging issues.

4. Programme questions and other matters.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013: subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

3. Pursuant to the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of five candidates to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

Decision 47/101
Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development decides to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following five candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) Christian Comeliau (France), for a two-year term beginning on 1 July 2009 and expiring on 30 June 2011;

(b) Bina Agarwal (India), Yesim Arat (Turkey), Evelina Dagnino (Brazil) and Julia Szalai (Hungary), for a term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2013.

D. Resolutions and decision brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 47/1
Policies and programmes involving youth*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which it adopted the Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,

Recalling also the goals and targets related to the priority areas of globalization, poverty and hunger, education and employment, contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on goals and targets for monitoring the progress of youth in the global economy,[12]

Recognizing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Stressing the important role of effective national youth policies in promoting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 31-35.

[12] A/62/61/Add.1-E/2007/7/Add.1.

Stressing also that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities working on youth are necessary to make the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

1. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond[13] and its Supplement[14] as a unified set of guiding principles, to be referred to henceforth as the World Programme of Action for Youth;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society"[15] and the annexes thereto containing goals and targets for the clusters "Youth and their well-being" and "Youth in civil society";

3. *Calls upon* Member States to consider using the goals and targets proposed in the report of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 2 above at the national level as a means of facilitating the monitoring of the progress in ensuring young people's well-being and their engagement with civil society and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations entities to disseminate information about the World Programme of Action for Youth and the proposed goals and targets and to promote their appropriate use in their programmatic work related to youth;

5. *Encourages* Member States to collect, on a continuous basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and gender, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the goals and targets proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to further develop and propose a set of possible indicators linked to the World Programme of Action for Youth and the proposed goals and targets, in order to assist States in assessing the situation of youth, with a view to allowing it to be considered by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session and by the Statistical Commission at the earliest opportunity;

7. *Urges* Member States to work together with youth-led organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth and, when using the proposed goals and targets, to share experiences and good practices in this regard;

8. *Calls upon* Member States, with the assistance of the United Nations system, to promote the well-being of youth by developing effective national youth policies as an integral aspect of their national development agendas;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to create effective channels of cooperation and information exchange among young people, their national Governments and other decision makers and to support the establishment and functioning of independent

[13] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.
[14] General Assembly resolution 62/126, annex.
[15] A/64/61-E/2009/3.

national youth councils or equivalent bodies, including junior parliaments, with the assistance of the United Nations system where needed;

10. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further assist youth in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States, the international community, the United Nations system and the private sector to support youth-led organizations in achieving openness and inclusiveness and to strengthen their capacity to participate in national and international development activities;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations to ensure that various youth inputs are duly shared with the Commission for Social Development during its deliberations;

13. *Stresses* the importance of recognizing young people as active agents in decision-making processes and for positive change and development in society;

14. *Urges* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and other relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

15. *Recognizes* the positive contribution that youth representatives make to the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies and their role of serving as an important channel of communication between young people and the United Nations, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to support adequately the United Nations Programme on Youth of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat so that it can continue to facilitate their effective participation in meetings;

16. *Welcomes* the recent increased collaboration among United Nations entities in the area of youth development, and calls upon the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration;

17. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States and recognizes the need to strengthen international cooperation in support of increased national efforts to achieve its implementation, including through official development assistance;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Youth within the existing resources of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs so as to meet the increasing demands on the Programme to support, evaluate and review youth development in all its facets;

19. *Invites* all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth in developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session, a comprehensive report on the coordination and collaboration of relevant United Nations entities in their work related to youth.

Resolution 47/2
Promoting full employment and decent work for all*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[16] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[17] and the further initiatives for social development, adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[18] and a continued global dialogue on social issues, constitute a basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recognizing that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[19] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[20]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/18 of 24 July 2008 on promoting full employment and decent work for all,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 63/230 of 19 December 2008 on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[21]

2. *Reaffirms* the central importance of full and productive employment and decent work to poverty reduction and social integration;

3. *Decides* to keep full and productive employment and decent work for all under review, and requests the Secretary-General to include a section on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/18, and on the linkage between full employment and decent work for all and social integration, and the impact of the current world financial and economic crisis on full employment and decent work for all and social integration, in his report on the main theme of social integration to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-eighth session.

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 8-10.

[16] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[17] Ibid., annex II.

[18] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[19] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[20] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[21] E/CN.5/2009/4.

Resolution 47/3
First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[22] adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002, and bearing in mind that continuing the systematic review of its implementation by Member States is essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General entitled "Further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: strategic implementation framework",[23] based on the results of the global first review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action, which involved inputs from Member States and the United Nations system, with the participation of civil society actors,

Recognizing the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all measures concerning older persons,

Recognizing also the important role of various intergovernmental organizations that deal with training, capacity-building, policy design and monitoring at the national and regional levels, in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[22] through, inter alia, national strategies and policies, improving data collection and sharing ideas, information and good practices, bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General containing the strategic framework for future implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action[23] and the guide to the national implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which is intended to assist Member States in focusing on the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

2. *Invites* Member States to determine their priorities for the coming years by, inter alia, building on the achievements in those areas where success was noted during the review and appraisal process, while paying special attention to areas where shortcomings were identified, with a view to improving policy development;

3. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to mainstream the concerns of older persons into their policy agendas, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development and the realization of all human rights for older persons, and to prevent age discrimination and to provide social integration;

4. *Urges* Member States to consider including in their national strategies, inter alia, policy implementation approaches such as empowerment and

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 36-37.

[22] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[23] E/CN.5/2009/5.

participation, awareness-raising and capacity development, and such essential policy implementation tools as evidence-based policymaking, mainstreaming, participatory approaches and indicators, as suggested in the report of the Secretary-General;[24]

5. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt appropriate measures, including, if necessary, legislative measures to promote and protect the rights of older persons and measures aimed at providing economic security and health care, while mainstreaming a gender perspective, full participation of older persons in the decision-making process affecting their lives, and ageing with dignity;

6. *Also calls upon* Member States to take concrete measures to further protect and assist older persons in emergency situations, in accordance with the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. *Recommends* that Member States strengthen their networks of national focal points on ageing, work with the regional commissions to exchange best practices and undertake a range of awareness-raising activities, including enlisting the assistance of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to expand media coverage on ageing issues;

8. *Also recommends* that Member States reach out to older persons and the organizations that represent them, providing them with needed information, and soliciting their feedback so as to make the national implementation process inclusive;

9. *Invites* Member States and all other major national and international stakeholders to continue their cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as the United Nations global focal point on ageing, in further implementing the Madrid Plan of Action;

10. *Invites* Member States to continue reviewing their national capacity for policy development concerning older persons and demographic ageing, with a view to implementing appropriate measures to enhance their national capacity in this area of policy development, as necessary;

11. *Encourages* Member States to promote the development of regional and subregional networks of experts and practitioners from government, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector in order to increase the potential for policy action on ageing;

12. *Encourages* the international community, including international and bilateral donors, to enhance international cooperation, in keeping with internationally agreed goals, to support national efforts to eradicate poverty, in order to ensure sustainable social and economic support for older persons, including by strengthening their national capacity in the area of policy development and implementation, with regard to older persons, while bearing in mind that countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development;

13. *Encourages* the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support national and regional efforts and to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order that the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing may be better understood and to provide policymakers with more

[24] Ibid., para. 65.

accurate and specific information on ageing and gender, such as for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation;

14. *Invites* the United Nations system to strengthen, within existing resources, its capacity to support international action on ageing, with a view to deepening understanding of issues related to ageing, including the effectiveness of related policy measures, and requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States regarding possible mechanisms for improving the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General,[23] to be presented during the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its forty-eighth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Decision 47/102
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session*

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its forty-seventh session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration;[25]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;[26]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;[27]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2007 and 2008.[28]

---

* For the discussion, see chap. II, para. 25.

[25] E/CN.5/2009/2.

[26] E/CN.5/2009/6.

[27] E/CN.5/2009/7 and Corr.1.

[28] E/CN.5/2009/8.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 13th meetings, from 4 to 13 February 2009. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society (A/64/61-E/2009/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration (E/CN.5/2009/2);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/CN.5/2009/3);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all (E/CN.5/2009/4);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: strategic implementation framework (E/CN.5/2009/5);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2009/6);

(g) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2009/NGO/1-15).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission. The Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development then made an introductory statement on agenda item 3 as a whole.

3. At the same meeting, the Chairperson of the NGO Committee for Social Development made a statement on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

4. At the 11th meeting, on 12 February, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2009/L.3).

5. At the 13th meeting, on 13 February, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced revisions to the draft resolution, which were circulated in an

informal paper, and announced that Finland, Poland[1] and Sweden[1] had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania,[1] Andorra, Austria,[1] Belgium,[1] Bulgaria,[1] the Congo,[1] Côte d'Ivoire,[1] Cyprus,[1] the Czech Republic, Denmark,[1] Estonia,[1] France, Germany, Greece,[1] Ireland,[1] Italy, Luxembourg,[1] the Netherlands, Nigeria, Portugal,[1] Slovakia, Slovenia,[1] Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as revised.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2009/L.3, as revised (see chap. I, sect. A).

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Japan made a statement.

Promoting full employment and decent work for all

8. At the 12th meeting, on 13 February, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Lilit Toutkhalian (Armenia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" (E/CN.5/2009/L.5), submitted on the basis of informal consultations, and made a statement thereon.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2009/L.5 (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 47/2).

10. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Czech Republic, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

A. Priority theme: Social integration

11. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 4 to 6 February 2009.

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and the associated countries), Finland, Namibia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Union), the Russian Federation, Japan, Mexico (on behalf of the Rio Group) and Italy and the observer for Brazil.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 5 February, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community), Egypt, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Turkey, Cuba, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia and the United States of America.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Morocco, Algeria, Belarus, the Philippines, Colombia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland and Ecuador and the representative of the Holy See.

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

15. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Bahá'í International Community, HelpAge International, Triglav Circle, Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, and Salesian Missions.

16. At its 5th meeting, on 5 February, the Commission heard a presentation by the Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteers programme, followed by an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the observer for Brazil and the representatives of Japan and Italy.

17. At the same meeting, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) on the priority theme and heard statements by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, China, India, Nepal, Jamaica, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Armenia and Mexico.

18. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observers for Tunisia, Yemen, Peru, Viet Nam, Costa Rica, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Moldova and Indonesia.

19. At the 6th meeting, on 6 February, statements were made by the representatives of Angola and Nigeria and the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Zambia, Israel and Haiti.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization, the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

21. At its 7th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Guatemala, Argentina and Bolivia.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and AARP.

Panel discussion and presentation under the priority theme

23. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme ("Social integration") and heard a presentation by the Minister of Health and Social Services of Finland followed by presentations by the following panellists: Wim Kok, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and member of the Club of Madrid; Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union; María Ines da Silva Barbosa, Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for Brazil and Southern Cone, United Nations Development Fund for Women; and Bimal Phnuyal, Country Director, ActionAid Nepal. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with panellists in which the representatives of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Republic of Korea, Jamaica and the Sudan (on behalf of

the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic participated.

24. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, the outcome of the review of the priority theme was in the form of the Chairperson's summary. The summary, entitled "The current global crises and their impact on social development and social integration", and including references to the discussion of emerging issues under agenda item 3 (c), is contained in annex I to the present report. The Commission agreed to transmit the summary to the President of the General Assembly, as an input to the upcoming conference on the global financial and economic crisis and its impacts on development, and to the President of the Council, as an input to the annual ministerial review to be held during the Council's 2009 substantive session.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

Document considered under the item

25. At its 13th meeting, on 13 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 47/102).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

26. At its 6th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission began its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and the associated countries), Senegal and the Russian Federation.

27. At its 7th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Japan, Bangladesh, Monaco, Jamaica, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Mexico, Italy and China and the observers for Malawi, the Philippines, Qatar, Malta, Romania, Kazakhstan, Zambia, Cape Verde and Jordan.

28. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission heard statements by the representatives of Paraguay, El Salvador, Egypt and Ghana.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

30. Also at the 8th meeting, statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Youth Alliance, Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Salesian Missions, and International Federation on Ageing.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Policies and programmes involving youth

31. At the 11th meeting, on 12 February, the representative of the Republic of Moldova,[1] on behalf of Austria,[1] the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Portugal,[1] the Republic of Moldova, Romania,[1] Senegal and Uzbekistan,[1] subsequently joined by Germany, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Swaziland[1] and Switzerland,[1] introduced a draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth" (E/CN.5/2009/L.4).

32. At the 13th meeting, on 13 February, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of Portugal, the Republic of Moldova and Senegal, made a statement and orally revised the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania,[1] Angola, Belgium,[1] Bulgaria,[1] Côte d'Ivoire,[1] Cyprus,[1] El Salvador, Estonia,[1] Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece,[1] Guatemala, Italy, Luxembourg,[1] Mexico, Morocco,[1] Slovenia,[1] South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden,[1] Switzerland,[1] Thailand[1] and Tunisia[1] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

33. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic.

34. Also at its 13th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2009/L.4, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 47/1).

35. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of the Netherlands and the observer for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Modalities for the first review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

36. At the 12th meeting, on 13 February, the Vice-Chairperson, of the Commission Lorena Giménez-Jiménez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), introduced a draft resolution entitled "First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002" (E/CN.5/2009/L.6), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations. After introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairman made a statement and orally revised the text.

37. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2009/L.6, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 47/3).

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Document considered under the item

38. At its 13th meeting, on 13 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 47/102).

C. Emerging issues: "The global crises and their impact on social development"

39. At the 9th meeting, on 9 February, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

40. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on "The global crises and their impact on social development" and heard presentations by Tariq Banuri, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; Faith Innerarity, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth and Sports, Jamaica; Xavier Prats-Monné, Director for Employment Policy and International Relations, European Commission; Tavengwa Nhongo, Africa Policy Director, HelpAge International; Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief, New York Liaison Office, World Food Programme; and Juho Saari, Professor, University of Kuopio, Finland. The Commission then began its general discussion and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists in which delegations from the following Member States made statements or comments or posed questions: the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), the Sudan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt and Ghana.

41. At its 10th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of the agenda item and heard statements by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Italy, the United Arab Emirates (on agenda item 3 as a whole), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Egypt.

42. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Belarus and Guyana.

Chapter III
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (a), (b) and (c) at its 10th meeting, on 11 February 2009.

A. Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007

B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011

2. At the 10th meeting, on 11 February, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement under item 4 (a) and (b).

C. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

3. At its 10th meeting, on 11 February, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development reported on the work of the Institute.

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At its 10th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following five candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Christian Comeliau, Bina Agarwal, Yesim Arat, Evelina Dagnino and Julia Szalai (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 47/101).

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 4 (c)

5. At its 13th meeting, on 13 February, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the note by the Secretary-General on the nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 47/102).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 13th meeting, on 13 February 2009. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2009/L.2).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-eighth session (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session

1. At the 13th meeting, on 13 February 2009, the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur, Soha Gendi (Egypt), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.5/2009/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its forty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters on 22 February 2008 and from 4 to 13 February 2009. The Commission held 13 meetings (1st to 13th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by 45 representatives of States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended (the list of the participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2009/INF/1).

C. Election of officers

3. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council had decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 22 February 2008 and 4 February 2009, in pursuance of that decision, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Kirsti Lintonen (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Lilit Toutkhalian (Armenia)
Tareq Md. Ariful Islam (Bangladesh)
Lorena Giménez-Jiménez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
Soha Gendi (Egypt)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission designated the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Soha Gendi (Egypt), as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission agreed that the Chairperson's summary of the discussion, under agenda item 3 (c), of the emerging issues: "The global crises and their impact on social development", would be transmitted to the President of the General Assembly, as an input to the upcoming conference on the global financial and economic crisis and its impacts on development, and to the President of the Economic and Social Council, as an input to the 2009 annual ministerial review.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/2009/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: social integration;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
   (c) Emerging issues: "The global crises and their impact on social development".
4. Programme questions and other matters:
   (a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011;
   (c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

7. Also at its 2nd meeting, following a statement by the Secretary of the Commission, the Commission approved its organization of work as contained in document E/CN.5/2009/1, annex I, as orally corrected.

8. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed, pursuant to Council resolution 2006/18, that the Chairperson's summary of the Commission's review of the priority theme would be included as an annex to the final report of the Commission.

E. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Commission at its forty-seventh session is contained in annex II to the present report.

Annex I

Chairperson's summary of the discussions on the priority theme and on the emerging issues: "The current global crises and their impact on social development and social integration"

1. Social integration is a process that strengthens the cohesion of societies through the inclusion of all people in society and its decision-making. Cohesion increases security in its comprehensive meaning. At the same time, inclusion of all population groups strengthens the development potential of societies.

2. Social integration is thus a prerequisite for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies so as to create an optimal basis for dynamic development and progress. Integration policies promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Social integration and the cohesion of societies can be achieved only if development is just and sustainable, economically, socially and environmentally.

The current global crises and their impact on social development and social integration

3. The global financial and economic crisis, and volatile food and energy prices, as well as climate change, pose a serious threat to hard-earned advances made in social development in recent years. They will undoubtedly have major negative implications for social development in general and societal cohesion in particular, unless the international community takes a comprehensive approach to finding a joint solution to the current crises.

4. The second half of 2008 saw the start of the worse financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The impact of the crisis on the real economy seriously diminishes economic prospects for 2009. Despite the announcement of several large-scale stimulus plans, short-term contractions are inevitable. The confluence of crises on multiple fronts has created a global environment of diminished growth prospects with a high degree of uncertainty. It may take months or even years for economic recovery to occur. This situation threatens to reverse progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Contractions in economic activities are expected to lead to significantly higher levels of unemployment and worsen labour-market conditions for workers, who were facing increasing economic insecurity even during the period of robust economic growth. Slowing or even negative economic growth with volatile commodity prices will put great downward pressure on workers' real wages.

6. Unemployment and lower wages in combination with volatile food and energy prices are adding tens of millions to the ranks of people living in poverty worldwide.

7. Increases in global food and energy prices in the first half of 2008 had led to food protests in many developing countries and caused some countries to impose export restrictions. Many poor countries are net importers of food and energy and

they saw their import bills balloon in 2008. People living in poverty will suffer most from the global crises owing to high food prices, falling incomes and unemployment. The number of people suffering from hunger is increasing.

8. These crises are unfolding against the background of the longer-term predicament of climate change. Climate change and its economic, environmental and social impacts will pose an unprecedented challenge to the cohesion of societies and the stability of international relations unless mitigation and adaptation measures are implemented in an equitable manner. Climate change manifested in increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather patterns and natural disasters, is impacting agriculture and food production and exacerbating the food crisis. It is also likely to increase the risk of outbreaks of infectious diseases, cause the emergence of new diseases resulting from ecosystem changes, and produce changes in vector-borne diseases such as malaria, thereby posing additional challenges to health systems.

9. Mitigating the impact of the crises on social development will require creating short- and long-term policies that are comprehensive and consistent, while recognizing that social, economic and environmental policies must be coordinated and must complement each other. Reducing social spending may be tempting in the short run, but the long-term implications would likely be counterproductive. Indiscriminate reductions in social spending should be avoided, as they would very probably lead to irreversible losses of human and social capital and also compromise long-term economic development.

Challenges to social integration

10. In the current phase of globalization, labour markets may create greater economic insecurity and inequity, which have a direct adverse effect on social cohesion in many societies. Unemployment, underemployment and poverty lead to social exclusion. Moreover, socio-demographic changes such as rapid urbanization, population ageing, increased migration, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the break-up of family structures pose particular challenges to social integration.

11. Social exclusion has multiple dimensions. Economic aspects of exclusion encompass exclusion from both the labour market and the access to assets. Social and cultural aspects entail exclusion from access to basic social security and services including education, health and housing, are means of communication, and lack of access to justice. Such economic, social and cultural exclusion leads to political exclusion, whereby individuals are prevented from exercising their rights as citizens, including participation in decision-making. Besides poverty, other major causes of exclusion include income inequalities, unequal rural/urban development, unequal distribution of assets, such as land, and direct or indirect discrimination based on gender, race, disability or ethnicity.

12. Gender discrimination is one of the most prevalent and pervasive forms of institutionalized inequality. Gender, which cuts across all other social categories, is a marker of identity and the basis of inequalities between men and women in all societies. Just as gender discrimination is a grave obstacle to social integration, advancing gender equality should be considered a key measure for achieving social integration.

13. It is necessary to take concrete steps to prevent social exclusion and combat all forms of discrimination. For instance, adequate education can empower the impoverished and other vulnerable social groups to participate in political, economic and social activities. It can expand the range of their life choices and can aid them in breaking free of the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Similarly, it is critical to improve health systems around the world, particularly those that serve infants, pregnant women, older persons and persons with disabilities. In developing countries, 9.6 million children under age 5 lose their lives every year from avoidable causes, such as infectious diseases and malnutrition. Vaccine supplies should be increased and sanitary conditions should be improved. The provision of medical care for the increasing numbers of older persons is likewise a growing concern.

Need for a comprehensive approach to social development

14. Poverty eradication, full employment and decent work and social integration are interrelated, and mutually reinforcing, and therefore an enabling environment needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously. Governments must adopt social, economic and employment policies that are coordinated and mutually strengthening. Such policies must promote social justice, and economic recovery and growth, and must be economically and environmentally sustainable. Economic growth needs to be accompanied by redistributive social policies in order that the inequality gap may be closed.

Poverty eradication

15. Poverty can be both the cause and the consequence of social exclusion. Poverty reduction and the eradication of absolute poverty are core issues of social integration. Furthermore, the focus on poverty prevention should be sharpened through more equitable societal policies — policies that effectively protect the vulnerable population groups from falling into poverty.

16. As poverty has multiple and interlinked causes, there is a need for more comprehensive social policies to create coherence among targeted programmes. It is also crucial to uphold social protection and high-quality social and health services even in times of economic crisis. The social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water and sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies. At the same time, empowerment of people living in poverty is critical. Channels must be designed through which to involve poor and vulnerable people in the planning, design, and implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Involvement must be promoted that respects their dignity and culture, uses their skills, knowledge and creativity, and assists them in getting organized and becoming educated about their rights. Special attention should be devoted to addressing the feminization of poverty, a factor leading to social exclusion and the intergenerational transmission of vulnerability, poverty and exclusion.

Full employment and decent work

17. Employment and decent work are key to social integration and enable individuals and families to work their way out of poverty. It is necessary for a society to support the provision of jobs and equal opportunities for all. It is equally

important to ensure that the benefits of economic growth and job creation reach everyone in society. Full employment and decent work are a pathway out of poverty and create a channel towards the social inclusion of marginalized groups and will thus lead to stronger social cohesion. The right to work, rights at work, access to social protection and social dialogue are the basic elements of decent work. The promotion of enterprise and entrepreneurship is of key importance. This encourages economic growth, investment and wealth creation and is also essential for sufficient job creation.

18. Labour policies that promote social inclusion should be based on non-discriminatory practices in respect of employment and training. The inclusion in the labour markets of young people, women, indigenous peoples, migrants and persons with disabilities should be a priority. Increasing labour-market flexibility and modernizing social protection systems constitute ways to assist people in seizing opportunities as well as facing challenges created by international competition, technological advances and changing population patterns.

19. To counter the negative impact of the current global financial and economic crisis, preservation of employment and decent work opportunities should be a priority. Jobs once lost are extremely difficult to regain. Skills training appropriate to the labour market should be expanded. Combining working-time flexibility with training is one strategy for achieving skill development and labour-market consistency while retaining stable employment contracts.

Promoting social integration

20. It has to be recognized that there is no "one size fits all" solution for social integration at the national level, as most countries have developed their own policies and programmes for social integration. This multidimensional concept needs to be well understood and addressed.

Social groups

21. Since the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, international efforts to advance social integration have addressed the special needs of certain social groups, which led to the adoption of new mandates and instruments, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,[a] the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[b] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[c] the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[d] the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[e] and the Beijing Declaration[f] and Platform for Action.[g]

---

[a] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[b] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

[c] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

[d] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

[e] General Assembly resolution 63/117, annex.

[f] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[g] Ibid., annex II.

22. These instruments have proved to be pivotal in building important foundations for minimizing exclusion, and guaranteeing the equal access to opportunities of all social groups, particularly when they are being translated into domestic laws and legislation and national policies and programmes. The emphasis on the social groups is meant to redress inequalities between and among groups and promote intergenerational perspective as well as counter such ills as racism, sexism and ageism.

23. However, addressing the special needs of social groups, while critical, is not sufficient to achieve the broad social integration paradigm endorsed by the World Summit for Social Development. Beyond helping all groups and individuals to gain access to society, social integration requires the transformation of those social norms and principles that underpin unequal relations. Moreover, it should be acknowledged that not all social groups are necessarily looking to be mainstreamed or integrated into the larger society. Rather, they do wish to be included, but in a way that enables them to maintain their ethnic and cultural identities. In this regard, respecting diversity and accommodating people with different backgrounds are key to achieving social integration.

More ambitious social development strategies

24. Advancing sustainable social integration requires comprehensive national strategies for promoting growth with equity through macroeconomic stability and sound public financial management, accompanied by fair and progressive tax systems and social protection mechanisms. The responsibility of advancing social integration does not lie solely with government, but should be shared by all sectors of the economy and society at large, including the private sector and civil society. Only through such cooperation can real progress be made towards eradicating discrimination, and injustice, while paving the way for true participation.

Social protection

25. Social protection is an investment in people and in long-term social and economic development. It makes a critical contribution with respect to meeting the development goals directed towards poverty eradication and exerting a positive impact on economic growth, social cohesion and social development. The State has the responsibility to ensure equal access to well-functioning and sustainable social protection on equal terms so as to enable people to manage the economic and social risks that they encounter. Appropriate social protection systems, including social and health services and income security, help people cope with crises and avoid irreversible losses in their productive assets and human capital, especially in a period of economic slowdown and great uncertainty. A well-functioning social protection system will enhance the opportunities of women to participate fully and equally in society, including in working life. Social protection systems are necessary for the maintenance and enhancement of social cohesion. Social protection systems must be based on the principle of universal coverage. Their design must ensure that they are adequate, adaptable, efficient, accessible and financially sustainable. There also need to be proper financial incentives in place which encourage people to actively seek employment. At the same time, support must be provided to those who are unable to work, including to older people.

26. The ongoing demographic trends and the increasingly globalized economy are presenting national economies and societies with major challenges. Social protection systems in both developed and developing countries must be based on

general principles of equal rights and dignity but at the same time must be designed to meet country-specific conditions. The international community may assist States in responding to the current challenges, especially in this time of global crisis. A special effort should be made to extend social protection to all, including workers in the informal economy and in rural areas.

27. Calculations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) have shown that an essential set of social protection mechanisms, including income transfers, is affordable in practically all developing countries. Almost 30 low-income countries around the world have already realized elements of essential transfers and access to basic services. Evidence shows that social transfers also create many kinds of economically beneficial externalities. Sound financial planning, good governance and political determination are necessary in the implementation of such basic guarantees. The efforts of ILO and other entities to develop guidance with respect to the definitions and the financing and implementation patterns of essential transfers and service provision should be supported.

Family policy

28. Families are a catalyst for social integration and social cohesion. Family policies are long-term measures that promote and reinforce social integration. Child-centred and family-friendly policies, financial support, and community-based services should be designed to strengthen capabilities of families and to promote women's equal rights.

29. Efforts and initiatives should be undertaken to ensure the further promotion, actual realization and continuous implementation of the mandated objectives of the International Year of the Family, in tandem with the preparations for the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014.

Volunteerism and involvement of the civil society

30. Opening up opportunities for volunteerism is increasingly being seen as a means to promoting social integration. Volunteerism has contributed to the development of social capital for social groups, including those that, traditionally, have found themselves marginalized from mainstream participation in development activities. It also enables excluded persons to enhance their participation and inclusion, enables young people to acquire skills and experience that facilitate their entry into the job market and allows older persons to continue to be actively involved in their communities and live healthier and more rewarding lives.

Media and communications

31. The power of the free media and communications technology to convey messages and information so as to increase social integration should not be underestimated. In light of recent advancements in communications technology, it is possible to target specific groups within the wider community. The media should participate in combating negative stereotyping, xenophobia and discrimination.

Commitment, policy direction and action

32. Realizing the objectives of "a society for all" requires commitment and social solidarity on the part of all members and sectors of society. There is a need for

strong political leadership, transparent decision-making, social innovation and timely action.

33. However, political commitment must be translated into concrete actions in order to operationalize social integration, and to keep it high in the list of priorities, even during times of crisis. The current crises will not only pose challenges for our societies, but also provide an opportunity to underscore the importance of social integration and to focus further on advancing equal and all-inclusive social development. There is a need for action-oriented polices and programmes that produce concrete outcomes. These policies and programmes should be evidence-based, supported by policy-relevant research, and followed up with systematic evaluation of results.

34. Each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. National policies and development strategies should include the promotion of social integration and cohesion. The dialogue on the feasibility of "a global social floor" should be continued and options should be further elaborated and assessed.

35. Encouraging progress is being made. For instance, the African Common Position on Social Integration, along with the Social Policy Framework for Africa and a Declaration on Social Development, was endorsed by the African Union in 2009.

36. The Council of Europe is organizing the first Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Cohesion in Moscow in February 2009, on the theme "Investing in social cohesion: investing in stability and the well-being of society".

37. A conducive international environment, in particular enhanced international cooperation, including fulfilment of commitments to provide internationally agreed official development assistance (0.7 per cent of gross domestic product), debt relief, market access and technical support, is crucial to the support of national efforts towards promoting social integration.

38. Cooperation and coordination at the international level are imperative for combating the effects of the global crises. Official development assistance commitments should not be neglected. Global social justice should be seen as a global public good that is beneficial to all. The international community should take a comprehensive approach to finding a solution to the crises. At the same time, there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

39. The international community and development partners, especially the institutions and donors financing development, are encouraged to increase international cooperation for development and effectively support national efforts to implement social development agendas. South-South cooperation, international cooperation in capacity development and general exchange of good practices are essential to promoting social integration. Regional cooperation in this respect is often cost-effective and results in appropriate policy models and applications.

Annex II

List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
A/64/61-E/2009/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: progress and constraints with respect to the well-being of youth and their role in civil society
E/CN.5/2009/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2009/2	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration
E/CN.5/2009/3	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2009/4	3	Report of the Secretary-General on promoting full employment and decent work for all
E/CN.5/2009/5	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: strategic implementation framework
E/CN.5/2009/6	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2009/7 and Corr.1	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General on the nominations of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2009/8	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on the work of the Institute during 2007 and 2008

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.5/2009/L.1	6	Draft report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session
E/CN.5/2009/L.2	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission
E/CN.5/2009/L.3	3	Draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
E/CN.5/2007/L.4	3 (b) (ii)	Draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth"
E/CN.5/2009/L.5	3 (b)	Draft resolution entitled "Promoting full employment and decent work for all"
E/CN.5/2009/L.6	3 (b) (iii)	Draft resolution entitled "First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002"
E/CN.5/2009/CRP.1	4 (b)	Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2010-2011 (English only)
E/CN.5/2009/CRP.2	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on the current global crises and their impact on social development (English only)
E/CN.5/2009/NGO/1-15	3 (a)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

09-25360 (E) 030409

Please recycle